

To: **Executive**
17th October 2023

CONTRACT AWARD FOR 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service
Director of Place, Planning and Regeneration

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Health Visiting Service and the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) are prescribed/mandated Local Authority Public Health functions under the [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#). They are delivered by the 0-19 Public Health Nursing contracts.
- 1.2 To share the conclusion of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing service tender, completed on 4th August 2023, and seek permission from the Executive to award the contract to the preferred bidder.
- 1.3 To seek permission from Executive to approve the budget for the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service Contract.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Executive approve the award of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service Contract to Provider A for a 5-year contract term with two 12-month optional extensions
- 2.3 That Executive approves the budget (as provided in section 2.3 and detailed in section 9 of the confidential annex -) for the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service for the 7-year maximum contract period with a start date from 1st April 2024. This will be paid from the ring fenced Public Health Grant allocation to the Council to deliver the public health functions.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The full Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service was carried out as prescribed by the Bracknell Forest Council Procurement Manual. The tender was published from 09 June 2023 to 27 July 2023.
- 3.2 The tender was for a 5-year initial contract term from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029, with two 12-month optional extensions.
- 3.3 The outcomes of the moderated evaluation are set out below:
- Provider A – The successful bidder and now the recommended provider.
 - Provider B – The unsuccessful bidder. The bid was scored below 40% threshold for the quality score and was not considered further.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Not to commission the service. However, the [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#) assigns local authorities in England the statutory responsibility for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0-19 years (including children aged up to 25 years with special educational needs and disabilities).

- 4.2 Failure to commission the service will not be in accordance with the statutory requirement.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 National context

- 5.2 The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service consists of Health Visiting (0-5 years) and School Nursing Service (5-19 years and up to 25 years for children with special needs and disabilities (SEND)) and includes the National Child Health Measurement Programme.
- 5.3 The Health Visiting Service and National Child Measurement Programme are prescribed/mandated Local Authority Public Health functions under the [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#). Local areas provide additional optional elements which include the majority of the School Nursing service to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. In Bracknell Forest the NCMP is delivered by the school nursing service.
- 5.4 The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service is funded from the annual ring fenced [Public Health Grant](#).
- 5.5 In May 2021, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) provided [guidance](#) on a new model for commissioning and delivering the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service with recommendations to include two additional optional contacts for the Health Visiting Service within the first year of new borns. Other recommendations include approaches to commissioning an effective evidence-based school nursing service.
- 5.6 The current contract for the 0-19 Service with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) ends on 31 March 2024 with no option for further extension.
- 5.7 The new service contract is intended to replace the current contract. The specification is an outcomes-focused to improve health and wellbeing for children, young people and families in Bracknell Forest and reduce inequalities.
- 5.8 Priority 1 of the [2022-2026 Bracknell Forest Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) intends to "Give all children the best start in life and support emotional and physical health from birth to adulthood" and cited the evidence-based Healthy Child Programme delivered through the 0-19 Service as the main vehicle for delivering this priority. Successful recommissioning of the service will contribute significantly to achieving this strategic objective.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

6.1 Legal Advice

The advice of Procurement and Finance have been reviewed. The award is legal and compliant. Our Standard Conditions of Contract : Services (Issue Dated: August 2021) are the basis for the signed document.

6.2 Procurement Advice

Following review, it is confirmed that the procurement was carried out compliantly and in line with the SPP and the published tender documents. Following evaluation Provider A, was the highest scoring bidder. Award of contract to Provider A.

6.3 Finance Advice

At the 1st April 2023 the Public Health reserve stood at £2.1m, there are currently £1.5m of in year project commitments, which would bring the reserve down to £0.600m. Current projections against this years Public Health grant show an anticipated transfer to reserves of £0.300m which would bring the reserve back to £1m at the 31st March 2024. Current and future commitments need to be reviewed and where possible reduced to ensure sufficient funding is available within the reserve to meet the potential deficit.

6.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for this requirement. This initial assessment determined that a full Equality Impact Assessment was not required. A copy of the EIA is available on request.

6.5 Climate change

ProviderA has a Green Plan. The focus of this plan is on reducing the carbon emissions that it has direct control over (NHS carbon footprint) as well as setting the foundation to manage the reduction of carbon emissions that it can influence (NHS carbon footprint plus).

7 Background Papers

NONE

8 Contact for further information

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